

Jamil A. Summerford COPY ORIGINAL
FX 8769
1100 Pike St.
Huntingdon, PA 16654-1112

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW.
Washington DC 20554.

RE: My comments on Media Ownership Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking - Docket 06-121

Dear FCC,

As an American citizen and taxpayer, I am outraged at former FCC Chairman Michael Powell's efforts to bury two separate studies that found media consolidation to be harmful to local news reporting. No decision should be made on ownership until a full and independent investigation of this cover-up is completed.

The FCC can't simply hide data from the public and push through new rules that unleash further consolidation of local news outlets. Localism and diversity are the cornerstones of a democratic media system; we cannot afford to compromise them in any way.

The FCC should allow no relaxation or elimination of the public interest limits on media ownership without first weighing all of the evidence and hearing out widespread public concern about the problems of consolidation.

Limits on media consolidation have been a bulwark against the concentration of economic power in the marketplace of ideas -- a critical part of balancing the public service mission of the media with their private profit motive. Our democracy requires the free flow of local information from a broad range of diverse voices.

Media consolidation has already led to declines in local and minority ownership as well as the homogenization of content in radio and television. Allowing further concentration of local media markets will only worsen the problems we already have.

The FCC should stand firm with the public against further concentration of media ownership in the hands of the few. A vote against media consolidation is a vote for democracy. I will join millions of Americans in closely following your actions regarding this vital matter. I hope and expect you will honor your responsibility to the American people by stopping any further media consolidation.

Most sincerely,

Jamil A. Summerford

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FCC

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November 15, 2006

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

To Whom It May Concern:

Please feel free to contact me with any questions regarding this filing.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Joel Kelsey
Grassroots Coordinator
Consumers Union®
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Consumers Union

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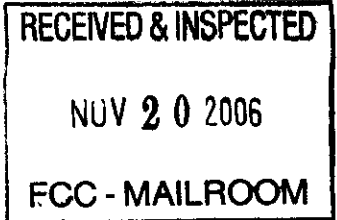
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Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of)	
)	
2006 Quadrennial Regulatory Review – Review of the)	MB Docket No. 06-121
Commission’s Broadcast Ownership Rules and Other)	
Rules Adopted Pursuant to Section 202 of the)	
Telecommunications Act of 1996)	
)	
2002 Biennial Regulatory Review – Review of the)	MB Docket No. 02-277
Commission’s Broadcast Ownership Rules and Other)	
Rules Adopted Pursuant to Section 202 of the)	
Telecommunications Act of 1996)	
)	
Cross Ownership of Broadcast Stations and)	MB Docket No. 01-235
Newspapers)	
)	
Rules and Policies Concerning Multiple Ownership of)	MM Docket No. 01-317
Radio Broadcast Stations in Local Markets)	
)	
Definition of Radio Markets)	MM Docket No. 00-244

Reply Comments Submitted
by the

Council of the City of Philadelphia

Honorable Anna Verna
President, Philadelphia City Council
City Hall, Room 405
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Councilmember Juan Ramos
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Councilmember Frank Rizzo
City Hall, Room 582
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To Whom It May Concern:

On October 19, 2006, the Council of the City of Philadelphia passed unanimously the attached resolution urging the Federal Communications Commission to protect and preserve its rules banning cross-ownership of broadcast and print media in local markets, and regulations that limit the number of stations one owner may hold. The resolution further urges that the FCC to hold fair, open public hearings on the agency's media ownership plans in the City of Philadelphia to ensure that members of the public have an opportunity to express their concerns about the impact of relaxing media ownership rules in a manner that would result in further media concentration; a reduction in the diversity of viewpoints and local news; and further constrain media ownership by women and minorities. The text of the resolution follows as an attachment.

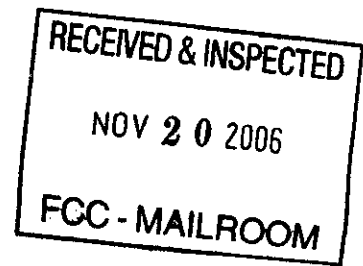
Attachments:

Philadelphia City Council Resolution No. 060782

Cc:

Honorable Anna Verna
Councilmember Blondell Reynolds Brown
Joseph Meade, Legislative Aide

City of Philadelphia



Council of the City of Philadelphia
Office of the Chief Clerk
Room 402, City Hall
Philadelphia

(Resolution No. 060782)

RESOLUTION

Supporting diversity in media ownership by urging the Federal Communications Commission to preserve rules that encourage local ownership, ensuring diverse viewpoints are represented in the media, to hold fair and open public hearings on media ownership in Philadelphia, and to urge members of the Pennsylvania Congressional delegation to use its authority to overturn any actions by the FCC that are not in the best interests of Philadelphians.

WHEREAS, Freedom of the press and public access to diverse media are prerequisites for a functioning democracy; and

WHEREAS, The broadcast airwaves are owned commonly by the public, and should be managed to serve the public interest; and

WHEREAS, The public interest is best served by the availability of a broadly diverse range of viewpoints; and

WHEREAS, Media diversity is seriously threatened by further consolidation of media ownership in an already highly concentrated market; and

WHEREAS, Deregulation of radio ownership rules under the Telecommunications Act caused unprecedented consolidation, dramatically decreasing competition; and

WHEREAS, Hispanics or Latinos comprise 14 percent of the entire U.S. population, but only own a total of 15 stations, or 1.11 percent of all stations; and

WHEREAS, Blacks or African Americans comprise 13 percent of the entire U.S. population but only own a total of 18 stations, or 1.3 percent of all stations; and

WHEREAS, Asians comprise 4 percent of the entire U.S. population but only own a total of 6 stations, or 0.44 percent of all stations; and

City of Philadelphia

RESOLUTION NO. 060782 continued

WHEREAS, The Federal Communications Commission is currently accepting public comment on media ownership rules, following an attempt by the agency to significantly weaken ownership limits in 2003, including but not limited to rules which forbid companies from owning newspapers and TV stations, rules which capped the number of television and radio stations owned in the same media market and rules barring firms from owning TV stations that reach more than 35 percent of the nation; and

WHEREAS, Eliminating or weakening these regulations would further reduce competition, local accountability, diversity of content and voices, and the amount and quality of news coverage in broadcast and print media across the country, while providing windfall profits for a small handful of corporate media owners; and

WHEREAS, The number of organizations in opposition to further media consolidation include, but is not limited to, the Pennsylvania Public Interest Research Group (PennPIRG), Prometheus Radio Project, Media Tank, the Philadelphia Community Access Coalition, Jobs with Justice, Consumers Union, Philadelphia International Action Center, Free Press, the Consumer Federation of America, the National Council of Churches, Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, United Church of Christ, League of United Latin American Citizens, Common Cause, The Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, the National Organization for Women, National Hispanic Media Coalition, the Mid-Atlantic Community Papers Association, Newspapers Guild – CWA, National Federation of Community Broadcasters, Center for Creative Activities, National Federation of Community Broadcasters, Fairness & Accuracy in Reporting, Independent Press Association, AFL-CIO, Department of Professional Employees, and Center for Creative Voices in Media; and

WHEREAS, The FCC has held only one public hearing on its current media ownership proceeding in Los Angeles, California and has not committed to holding any public hearings in or near the Philadelphia area; and

WHEREAS, Philadelphia is the nation's fifth largest city with a rapidly growing population of minorities that would suffer from further media consolidation; and

WHEREAS, The Congressional delegation representing Pennsylvania has authority over rules set by the FCC and is charged with representing the best interests of Philadelphians; now therefore

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, That it urges the Federal Communications Commission to protect and preserve its rules banning cross-ownership of electronic and print media, and regulations that limit the number of stations one owner may hold.

City of Philadelphia

RESOLUTION NO. 060782 continued

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Council urges the FCC to hold fair, open public hearings on the agency's media ownership plans in the City of Philadelphia.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That a true and correct copy of this resolution be presented to all members of Philadelphia's Congressional delegation as the true and sincere sentiments of this legislative body.

City of Philadelphia

RESOLUTION NO. 060782 continued

CERTIFICATION: This is a true and correct copy of the original Resolution, Adopted by the Council of the City of Philadelphia on the nineteenth of October, 2006.

Anna C. Verna
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Patricia Rafferty
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmember Reynolds Brown

Sponsored by: Councilmember Reynolds Brown Council President Verna,
Councilmembers Rizzo, DiCicco, Kenney, Blackwell, Goode,
Krajewski, Ramos, Miller, Kelly and O'Neill